

Message Text

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50

ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 TAR-01 GSA-02 /037 W

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R 181200Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3959

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 859

E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: EMIN, BGEN, SF

SUBJECT: BILL IN US CONGRESS FOR SUSPENSION OF IMPORT DUTIES
ON FLUORSPAR

BUMINES FOR NAHAI AND WOOD

1. RAND MINES, ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGE MINING ENTERPRISES, HAS INQUIRED ABOUT THE BILL PRESENTED IN APRIL IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES(HR. 6254), BY THE TRADE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD SUSPEND FOR TWO YEARS IMPORT DUTIES ON (APPARENTLY) ALL GRADES OF FLUORSPAR, AS DESCRIBED IN BUMINES "MINERAL INDUSTRIES SURVEYS". TRANSVAAL CONSOLIDATED LANDS (PTY) LTD., A RAND MINES SUBSIDIARY, HAS BUILT A PILOT PLANT NEAR ZEERUST IN THE WESTERN TRANSVAAL, TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF UPGRADING ITS LARGE HOLDINGS OF 15 PERCENT CAF₂ FLUORSPAR ORES TO ACID GRADE, COMMERCIALY SALEABLE CONCENTRATES. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICER OF THE FIRM, THE PRODUCTION OF THIS ORE FROM OPEN-PIT OPERATIONS IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, BUT THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF THE PROJECT DEPENDS LARGELY ON FACTORS SUCH AS THE US MARKET WITHIN TWO YEARS' TIME, WHEN FULL PRODUCTION MIGHT BE UNDERWAY.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BUMNES' APPRAISAL OF THE PROSPECTS FOR HR.6254 AND ITS TIME-SPAN FOR PROCESSING. FOR OUR BACKGROUND WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW THE ORIGINS OF THE BILL.

GUTHRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MINING, INDUSTRY, IMPORTS, TARIFFS
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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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